Divisions and zones of railways in Maharashtra

2208. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to reorganise the existing Divisions and Zones of Indian Railways in Maharashtra :

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) what new proposals have been approved during the current year for Sholapur Division particularly laying of new lines and conversion of metre gauge into broad gauge alongwith the details of progress made in this regard '?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Railway Reform Commttee's recommeadations for reorganisation of railways by creating new Zones and Divisions are with the Ministry but financial constraints have precluded the possibility of going in for any new Zone or Division.

(c) No new line work is in progress on Sholapur Division. However, gauge conversion work in Daund-Baramat section is in progress. Miraj-Latur and Sholapur-Gadag sections have been included in the action plan for gauge conversion and are likely to be taken up in the coming years as per availablility of resources.

Relay fast by officers in the Railways

2209. SHRI ASH1S SEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Group 'B' Officers of Indian Railways had gone on relay fast in the month of March, 1992 :

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether any memorandum was submitted by the Indian Rairway-men's Federation ; and

(d) if so, What are their main grievances and what remedial measures Government are contemplating to remove the frustration among the members of this vital category and by when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For redressal of their grievances.

(c) Yes, sir.

(p) A statement is attached.

Statement

The grievances of Groups 'B* officers mainly relate to the following items :

(i) Vacancies in Group 'A'

(ii) Inadequate quota of Group 'B' officers.

(iii) Delay in D.P.C.

(iv) Career Planning & stagnation.

(v) Pay fixation on promotion to Sr. Scale.

(vi) Pay scale anomaly.

(vii) Pay scale not commensurate with duties and responsibilities.

2. The above sunjects had been examined and the views of the Ministry of Railways communicated to the Promotee Officers' Federation during their meetings with the Ministry. The following benefits have been granted to the Group 'B' officers.

(i) On appointment to Group 'A', Groups 'B' officers are assigned weightage of service (Subject to